

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 17-22 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Yu et al, Blood, 98(1), 2001:146a Abstract 615. Applicants request reconsideration of this rejection for the reasons that follow.

The Yu et al. is authored by the four inventors of this application and one additional author, Dr. Yun Dai. Enclosed is a declaration under Rule 132 which establishes that Dr. Dai was working at the direction of inventor Dr. Steven Grant at the time that the experiments described in Yu et al. were carried out. Therefore, the Yu et al. abstract is a publication of the present inventors' own work.

Since this application has an effective filing date that is less than a year after the publication of Yu et al, it is not a reference under 35 USC 102(b) against this application. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of all rejections that rely on Yu et al. in view of the enclosed Rule 132 declaration.

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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